

RESULTS & ANALYSIS

A total of 113 surveys were completed and returned by the respondents producing a study response rate of 43 percent. Of this number, 31 or 27 percent were submitted by respondents from the state sheriffs' offices with the remaining 82 or 73 percent, being returned by participants from the state's police departments. These responding agencies were located in 63 of the state's 100 counties. The majority of these agencies were located in the Coastal region of the state with 48 percent of surveys returned by respondents from this area. Respondents from the Piedmont region submitted 36 percent of surveys with the remaining 16 percent coming from agencies in the Mountain region.



Survey responses indicate that there are a total of 359 Internet sweepstakes cafés in operation within the 63 counties for which data were provided. Of the total number of responding agencies, 66 or 58 percent reported having sweepstakes cafés within their jurisdiction. Of these 66 agencies, those reporting one café comprised the largest percentage of responding agencies (33%) followed by agencies reporting two cafés (22%) and agencies reporting three cafés (18%). The remaining agencies (27%) reported having more than four cafes in their respective jurisdictions. The average number of cafes, per jurisdiction, was slightly more than five ($X=5.7$).

INVESTIGATIONS

Respondents from the surveyed agencies were asked to provide information relating to the types of investigations and any difficulties surrounding these investigations relative to Internet sweepstakes cafés (see Table 1). Of the 66 responding law enforcement agencies with cafes in their jurisdictions, 25 or 37.8 percent reported prior and or current investigations of these businesses with activities ranging from illegal gambling and alcohol to robbery and citizen complaints. Per agency, of the 47 reporting police agencies, 20 or 42.6 percent reported investigations of these businesses. Of these numbers 48 percent of police agencies expressed difficulty with their investigations and attributed these difficulties to several causes including, but not limited to owner reluctance, the limitation or vagueness of current state statutes, previous court decisions and injunctions and the absence of state guidance or cooperation. Based on those investigations, two reports of sweepstakes cafés being shutdown were received and were attributed to illegal gambling. Of the 19 sheriffs' offices, five or 26.3 percent reported investigations relating to illegal gambling and fraud. Five agencies also reported difficulty performing investigations; voicing similar concerns of police agencies.

TABLE 1: LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATIONS BY AGENCY TYPE

Offense Investigated	Police Number	Sheriff Number	Total Number	Percent
Illegal Gambling	9	4	13	27.1
Drug Related	5	0	5	10.4
Illegal Alcohol	4	1	5	10.4
Fraud	4	1	5	10.4
Robbery/Larceny	3	1	4	8.3
Money Laundering	2	1	3	6.3
Other	11	2	13	27.1
Total Offenses	38	10	48	100